

The Utah State Parks

Explorer

Fall 2008

Southern Utah State Parks Fall Tour

Day One:

In the quaint town of Boulder, visit the site of an ancient village that was one of the largest Ancestral Puebloan communities



The Coombs Site at Anasazi State Park Museum

west of the Colorado River. Now called the Coombs Site, it is believed to have been occupied from A.D. 1160 to 1235 and may have housed as many as 200 people.

Archeological excavations at the site have revealed more than 100 structures and have produced thousands of artifacts, some of which are on display in the museum. In addition to museum collections, visitors may also explore the Coombs Site, located directly behind the museum.

Travel south on Scenic Highway 12 in the heart of canyon country enjoying incredible views of the Grand Staircase National Monument. Drive across Hells Backbone (not for the faint of heart) or enjoy a short hike to Calf Creek Falls.

Set up camp at Escalante Petrified Forest State Park located just 44 miles east of Bryce Canyon National Park. Hike along

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Annual Passes Make Great Holiday Gifts

Give the gift of the great outdoors with a Utah State Parks Annual Pass. Explore Coral Pink Sand Dunes, climb into the kiva at Edge of the Cedars or visit any of Utah's 43 state parks and museums.

Passes for the 2009 season are available early December and sell for \$75. Utah residents 62 years and older may purchase a Senior Adventure Pass for \$35, which offers the same benefits as the Annual Pass. Mention this newsletter and receive \$5 off either pass.

Passes allow cardholder and up to seven guests in the same vehicle,

day-use access to most state parks, except This Is The Place Heritage Park, and do not cover the Davis County Causeway fee at Antelope Island State Park.

Annual park passes also provide a \$2 discount off overnight camping, except holidays and holiday weekends. Passes are not valid for golf course fees.

Passes may be purchased at any state park, region office, online at stateparks.utah.gov and the Utah State Parks administrative office located at 1594 West North Temple in Salt Lake City. For more information, call (801) 538-



Receive \$2 off camping with an Annual Pass.

7220 or 877-UT-PARKS.

Online Discount Code: USPFLT
Expires 12/31/2008

If you missed Rockin' Utah this year, plan to join us in 2009.



“Our goal is to reach out to children and their families and draw them to the outdoors through activities to help them rediscover their natural world and cultural heritage.”

-Mary Tullius,
Utah State Parks Director



Rockin' Utah Recap

Utah families hunted for scorpions by moonlight at Snow Canyon, flew kites at Flight Park State Recreation Area, and learned to Dutch oven cook while camping at Palisade State Park. These were just a few of the free events offered to get children and families off the couch and involved in educational and healthy activities.

More and more children are spending less time outdoors, even here in Utah, which has more spectacular scenery and play areas than just about anywhere. In 2008, Utah State Parks joined a national movement to get children and their families unplugged from video games, television and other electronics and instead, exploring our great outdoors.

“We want to be part of the solution to this problem,” said Director Mary Tullius, Utah State Parks. “We will provide affordable, healthy and fun activities to encourage families to reconnect with nature and each other.”

A national effort began in response to the book, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from the Nature Deficit Disorder* by author Richard Louv. His book describes how children would rather be playing a video game, hanging out in a mall or texting on a cell phone, than playing outdoors.

In addition to a disconnection with nature, childhood obesity is at epidemic proportions. Health officials say that one-third of today's children will get diabetes in their lifetime, reducing life expectancy and increasing healthcare costs.

Look for a calendar of Rockin' Utah events for the 2009 season coming soon to our website stateparks.utah.gov.



Bad Weather Boating Tips

With colder weather approaching, Utah State Parks Boating Education Specialist Chris Haller offers these bad weather boating tips:

- Wear your lifejacket
- Keep a sharp lookout for other vessels and floating debris
- If there is fog, sound your horn or whistle
- If your vessel has more than one fuel tank, switch to a full tank
- Head for the nearest shore that is safe to approach
- Head into waves at a 45 degree angle
- Close all hatches and windows to reduce the chance of swamping
- Reduce speed, but keep enough power to maintain headway and steering
- Secure loose items
- If engine stops, drop the anchor from the bow
- Take appropriate warm clothing

Weather can change very rapidly and create unexpected situations for vessel operators. Always watch for changes in the weather and monitor the weather forecast. As always, make sure to inform a friend and/or relative of where you are boating and expected time of return.

For more boating information, or to take a boating course, visit stateparks.utah.gov

Should Utah State Parks have a mascot? If so, what should it be? Submit your suggestions to parkcomment@utah.gov

Snowmobile Education Classes for Youth

Utah State Parks offers Know Before You Go! snowmobile education courses statewide in fall and winter. Students must pre-register for this class. Cost is \$10 per student.

Youth age eight through 15 are required by state law to take a safety class prior to operating snowmobiles on public lands or trails. To pre-register or for more information about Utah off-highway vehicle programs, please call 1-800-648-7433 (1-800-OHV-RIDE).



Anyone can enroll in Know Before You Go! classes to learn about snowmobile safety techniques.



Drew's Dutch Oven Drop Peach Cobbler

Cross-country ski or snowshoe through Wasatch Mountain State Park and attend a campfire program. Then enjoy this delicious and easy Dutch oven recipe.

- 1 cake mix of choice
- 1 quart of peaches in heavy syrup
- 1/2 stick of butter
- cinnamon

Prepare and light 25 briquettes.

Dump fruit into 12" Dutch oven. Pour dry cake mix on top of fruit. Cut butter into thin squares and place on top of cake mix. Sprinkle cinnamon over top of entire mixture.

Set Dutch oven on eight briquettes, place remaining 17 briquettes on top of oven, and bake for 15 minutes. Remove Dutch oven from bottom briquettes while keeping the 17 briquettes on top, and bake an additional 15 minutes or until done. Try this recipe with any type of fruit!

- Park Ranger Drew Patterson, Wasatch Mountain State Park



Escalante Petrified Forest State Park

FALL TOUR

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park nature trails through a petrified forest, or rent a canoe and paddle the clear waters of Wide Hollow Reservoir. View fossils, petrified wood, fossilized dinosaur bones, and artifacts left by ancient Fremont Indians who inhabited this area nearly 1,000 years ago.

There are several trails throughout the park that visitors will enjoy. The Petrified Forest Trail is a one-mile loop, winding through lava flows and thousands of pieces of petrified wood. The Sleeping Rainbows Trail is an optional 3/4-mile loop off the Petrified Forest Trail. This section is much steeper and requires scrambling and climbing over rocks.

Day Two:

Load up the car and continue south on Highway 12 to Kodachrome Basin State Park. Explore the colorful spires that tower majestically throughout the park. Sixty-seven sand pipes ranging from two to 52 meters have been identified in the park. Massive sandstone chimneys change from gray and white to shades of red depending on the day's mood. Numerous rocks and coves offer solitude, quiet and unique desert beauty.

In addition to hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking in the park, visitors should plan to visit nearby Grosvenor Arch.

This intricate double arch, located just 10 miles southeast of Kodachrome Basin State Park, is one of the most impressive in the state.



Kodachrome Basin State Park

For more information or to request a Utah State Parks Field Guide, call (801) 538-7220, 877-UT-PARKS, or visit stateparks.utah.gov

Out-Of-Town Hollie Brown's Favorite S'mores

After hiking and exploring the trails at Fremont Indian State Park and Museum, I love to end the day with tasty, gooey s'mores. A hit around any campfire, try this new twist to an old favorite. Instead of using a plain chocolate bar, try a Reese's Peanut Butter Cup.

What you'll need:

Graham crackers

Marshmallows

Reese's Peanut Butter Cups

Sturdy roasting stick

Enjoy!



**Utah State Parks
is now on
Twitter.com!**

Stay up-to-date on Utah State Parks news, events and park conditions by following our Twitter feed. Find us at [Twitter.com/UtahStateParks](https://twitter.com/UtahStateParks)

Fall Calendar of Events

October 25 Camp Floyd/Stagecoach Inn State Park and Museum - Fairfield

Ghosts of Camp Floyd: Join park staff for a paranormal investigation of Camp Floyd at 5:30 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own tape recorders, film, digital and infrared cameras to capture paranormal orbs, mists and sounds. Visitors may hear recordings and view other paranormal evidence gathered at this historic site. This event is free and open to the public. (801) 768-8932

October 25 Fremont Indian State Park and Museum - Sevier

Scary Story Trail: Join park staff at 5 p.m. for an evening of trick-or-treating, haunted trail, spooky stories around a campfire, games, crafts, contests and more. (435) 527-4631

October 25 Snow Canyon State Park - Ivins

Monsters in the Desert: Gila monsters are one of the most mysterious and endangered creatures of southwest Utah. Join Wildlife Biologist Ann McLuckie at 9 a.m. as she discusses the history and biology of these fascinating lizards. Find out how Gila monsters are studied using radio-telemetry and don't miss this opportunity to try radio tracking for yourself! Space is limited and registration is required. (435) 628-2255

October 31 – November 2 Antelope Island State Park - Syracuse

Bison Roundup Working of Animals: Watch the bison get their health checkups from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the bison corrals. Park staff is on hand for questions and tours. (801) 773-2941

November 8 Snow Canyon State Park - Ivins

White Rocks Sketch Walk: Join park staff beginning at 9 a.m. for a 1.5-mile roundtrip hike to explore the fun of nature sketching. Space is limited and registration is required. (435) 628-2255

November 10 Iron Mission State Park Museum - Cedar City

Iron Mission Days: Celebrate Cedar City's birthday. Activities vary throughout the week and include living history activities, craft demonstrations, family handcart pull, and

lectures. Contact the museum for specific event times. (435) 586-9290

November 15 Snow Canyon State Park - Ivins

Intro to Rappelling: Join professional climbing instructors from 2 to 4 p.m. to discover the thrill of rappelling down a cliff face! Instructors demonstrate and take you step-by-step through the vertical world of rappelling. All equipment and instruction provided by Paragon Climbing. Space is limited and registration is required. (435) 628-2255

November 28 Antelope Island State Park - Syracuse

Star Party: Join the park naturalist at 5:30 p.m. at the visitor center for a deeper look into the human history of astronomy. An outdoor viewing of the current constellations follows the program (weather permitting). (801) 721-9569

November 29 Territorial Statehouse State Park Museum - Fillmore

Holiday Lighting Ceremony: Enjoy a festive holiday program followed by the lighting ceremony. Refreshments will be served. (435) 743-5316

November 29 Antelope Island State Park - Syracuse

Winter Ecology Program: During the long winter months, plants and animals must adapt to harsh conditions to survive. Join the park naturalist and learn more about these adaptations. Participants should meet at the visitor center at 3 p.m. (801) 721-9569

December 1 Territorial Statehouse State Park Museum - Fillmore

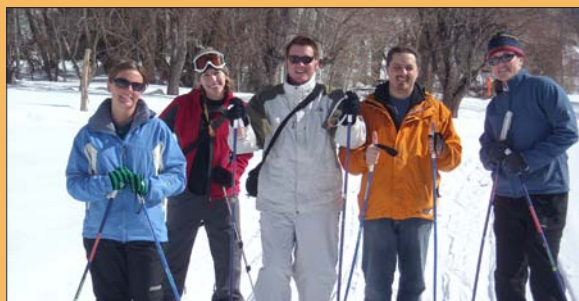
Old Fashioned Family Christmas: Celebrate the holiday season by making old-fashioned Christmas tree ornaments, listening to stories, and learning pioneer dances. Treats will be served. (435) 743-5316

December 8 Iron Mission State Park Museum - Cedar City

Christmas at the Homestead: Experience Christmas activities in a unique pioneer environment. Immerse yourself in Christmas traditions from the past that the whole family can enjoy. (435) 586-9290

Share Your Photos and Stories With Us!

Do you have a picture of a recent trip to a Utah state park? Tell us about your visit and you could win cool Utah State Parks swag. Submit your photos and stories online at uspphotos@utah.gov



Cross-country skiing at Wasatch Mountain State Park

Newsletter Contributors:

Hollie Brown - writer
holliebrown@utah.gov
 Deena Loyola - editor
deenaloyola@utah.gov
 Nichole Mallory - marketing
nicholemallory@utah.gov
 Stefanie Michaelson - page design
stefaniemichaelson@utah.gov
 Drew Patterson - park ranger
drewpatterson@utah.gov